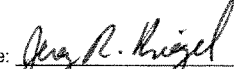


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: April 9, 2010

Signature:


(Jeremy R. Krieger)

PATENT
31118/DY0206

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Vandermeulen, et al.

Application No.: 10/540,548

Confirmation No.: 7189

Filed: July 15, 2004

Art Unit: 2854

**(U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP03/14992,
International filing date July 15, 2004)**

For: VALIDATION OF CONSUMABLES

Examiner: Marini

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE

MS Amendments
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment Accompanying a Request for Continued Examination is in response to the final Office Action mailed on December 9, 2009.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

The **Remarks** section begins on page 12 of this Preliminary Amendment.